

Follow the Tomato



Purpose

A service-learning course was developed for students to learn about social, economic, health, and environmental consequences related to the food system. Students “followed the tomato” by engaging in the food system from the farm to the fork. These experiences contributed to learning about community-based strategies to address food insecurity, community engagement techniques, and prompted discussions about food as a human rights issue.

Impact

Students created videos and two-page infographics incorporating research and interviews about Franklinton Gardens’ mission of “growing and sharing food, creating beauty, and building community” that were included as part of Franklinton Gardens’ first ever annual report.

Students presented their outputs at a community event that included a Franklin Gardens tour, locally-sourced homemade lunch, presentations, and open house hosted in Franklinton.

Students worked at Franklin Gardens, Gladden Food Pantry, Mid-Ohio Food Bank, and at Worthington Farmers’ Market.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

College of Social Work
Knowlton School of Architecture--City and Regional Planning in the College of Engineering
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences-Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability
College of Education and Human Ecology-Nutrition
College of Arts and Sciences-Anthropology, Psychology

Community Partners Involved

Franklinton Gardens
Columbus Public Health
Veggie SNAPs
Gladden Community House and Food Pantry
Worthington Farmers’ Market
Mount Carmel Healthy Living Center
Franklinton Board of Trade
Mid-Ohio Foodbank



How you can get involved:

- Support our partners with financial donations and commitment to serve.
- Funding to support a 10-hour/20-week student assistant position to help with service-learning coordination and gain leadership experience.
- Creative and collaborative internships for students interested in working on social and environmental injustices in the food system.
- Support our annual community program with a donation to Franklinton Gardens and the Mount Carmel Healthy Living Center for food and space.
- Support Franklinton Board of Trade’s ability to host our class each year with a donation for space, usage of materials (Internet, electricity, heat, bathroom).
- Provide funding to support experiential in-class activities and tours.

To get involved, contact:

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